

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227329

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT:COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CD) AUSTRIAN
CANDIDACY

REF: STATE 220619 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR SCHOBBER CALLED ON EUR
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOODBY SEPTEMBER 6 TO PRESENT
AIDE MEMOIRE SUPPORTING AUSTRIA'S APPLICATION FOR
MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CD).
END SUMMARY.
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1. SCHOBBER SUMMARIZED AIDE MEMOIRE (TEXT FOLLOWS
PARA 3) OUTLINING THE GUIDELINES WHICH AUSTRIA WOULD
FOLLOW IN CASE OF HER ADMITTANCE TO THE CD. IN
RESPONSE TO QUERY, SCHOBBER SAID THE SAME APPROACH
IN SUPPORT OF AUSTRIAN CANDIDACY WAS BEING MADE IN
AT LEAST ONE OTHER CAPITAL, POSSIBLY MORE. SCHOBBER

ASKED FOR US VIEWS ON THE SELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

2. IN RESPONSE GOODBY MADE POINTS SIMILAR TO THOSE REPORTED REFTEL (BEING REPEATED SEPARATELY TO VIENNA) WITH RESPECT TO US VIEWS ON TIMING, NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS, THE SELECTION PROCESS, AND GENERAL

US PREFERENCES ON A SLATE OF CANDIDATES (ONE NATO MEMBER, AUSTRALIA, AND EQUITABLE REGIONAL REPRESENTATION). WITH RESPECT TO AUSTRIAN CANDIDACY, GOODBY SAID THE US WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE A EUROPEAN NEUTRAL COUNTRY ADMITTED AS A MEMBER AND NOTED THAT AUSTRIA'S FINE RECORD IN DISARMAMENT MATTERS WOULD MAKE IT AN ASSET TO THE CD. AT THE SAME TIME HE ALSO NOTED THE CANDIDACY OF FINLAND, ANOTHER EUROPEAN NEUTRAL, FOR MEMBERSHIP. GOODBY SAID HE WAS GRATIFIED TO HEAR THE AUSTRIANS WERE PRESSING THEIR CASE ACTIVELY IN CAPITALS AND WITH UNGA PRESIDENT MOJSOV SINCE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WERE LIKELY TO BE DECISIVE IN THE SELECTION OF NEW CANDIDATES.

3. TEXT OF AUSTRIAN AIDE MEMOIRE FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT.

AUSTRIA HAS APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT TO BE CONVENED AS OF JANUARY 1979 IN GENEVA. IN THIS CONNECTION THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES CONFIDENTIAL

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DEEM IT APPROPRIATE TO OUTLINE SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE GUIDELINES WHICH AUSTRIA INTENDS TO FOLLOW IN CASE OF HER ADMITTANCE TO THIS COMMITTEE:

THE AUSTRIAN POSITIONS ON DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY STATED IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER, MOST RECENTLY AT THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ASSEMBLY ON DISARMAMENT, AND ARE THEREFORE BELIEVED TO BE WELL-KNOWN.

AUSTRIA VIEWS THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT AS A NEGOTIATING BODY PERMITTING TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS ON CONCRETE ARMS-LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT MEASURES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED IN A PRAGMATIC AND NON-ILLUSIONARY WAY, BASED ON A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION.

AUSTRIA PLACES MAIN EMPHASIS ON PRAGMATIC DISARMAMENT STEPS FIRST AND FOREMOST IN THOSE FIELDS WHERE, AT A GIVEN TIME, PROGRESS SEEMS POSSIBLE. ACCORDING TO OUR FIRM CONVICTION ANY SUCH DISARMAMENT MEASURES MUST BE CONCRETE AND SIGNIFICANT.

AUSTRIA DOES NOT OVERLOOK ARGUMENTS WHICH POINT OUT THE RELATIVELY MODEST IMPACT OF EXISTING DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS ON DIMINISHING THE ARMS RACE SO FAR. HOWEVER, IT IS STRONGLY FELT THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH AGREEMENTS THE ARMS RACE WOULD HAVE CONTINUED

ON AN EVEN HIGHER SCALE. AUSTRIA IS THEREFORE THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT ATTEMPTS TO REACH NEW ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS IN SPECIFIC FIELDS ARE NECESSARY AND USEFUL, NOT ONLY FOR THEIR DIRECT EFFECTS ON POSSIBLY SLOWING DOWN AND FINALLY HALTING THE ARMS RACE, BUT ALSO IN VIEW OF THEIR POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. IN FACT, THE EXISTING

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AGREEMENTS PROVE THAT FURTHER CONCERTED DISARMAMENT STEPS CAN BE AGREED UPON THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

FOR ANY SUCCESS IN DISARMAMENT EFFORTS IT IS UTTERLY IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE PARTNERS TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT AND TO RESPECT THE LEGITIMATE SECURITY INTERESTS OF ALL COUNTRIES. EXPEDIENTS AFFORDING ONE STATE OR A GROUP OF STATES UNILATERAL BENEFITS WOULD ENDANGER INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR DESTABILIZING EFFECT.

AS A MEMBER OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AUSTRIA GIVES PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO THE PREVENTION OF FURTHER VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO WHICH GOAL A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY COULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION. AUSTRIA'S INTEREST IN THE CONCLUSION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS ALSO DOCUMENTED BY ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE AD HOC-SEISMOLOGICAL EXPERT GROUP OF THE CCD.

IN THE AUSTRIAN VIEW ANOTHER TIME OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE WOULD BE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONCLUSION OF A TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS WHICH CONTAIN AN ENORMOUS POTENTIAL OF MASS DESTRUCTION. ADEQUATE VERIFICATION MEASURES OUGHT TO BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. AUSTRIA FULLY REALIZES, HOWEVER, THE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS OF MEANINGFUL VERIFICATION IN THIS FIELD, GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THAT CAN BE USED BOTH FOR CIVILIAN AND FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY AUSTRIA LAID PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE NECESSITY OF ADEQUATE VERIFICATION FOR DISARMAMENT PURPOSES. AUSTRIA BELIEVES SUCH MEASURES TO BE NECESSARY AS AN ASSURANCE TO TREATY PARTNERS THAT ALL TREATY PARTNERS WILL ABIDE BY ITS PROVISIONS. HENCE ADEQUATE VERIFICATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR MAINTAINING THE CONFIDENCE NECESSARY BETWEEN THE PARTNERS TO DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS.

AN INCREASE IN MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WILL IN TURN CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER CHANGES FOR THE CONCLUSION OF NEW DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS IN THE FUTURE.

AUSTRIA IS, HOWEVER, AWARE OF THE NEED TO STRIKE AN EQUITABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED FOR SUFFICIENT CONTROL PROVISIONS - NATIONAL AND/OR INTERNATIONAL, AS APPROPRIATE - AND THEIR POLITICAL ACCEPTABILITY TO THE SIGNATORY STATES.

THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS DO NOT PRETEND TO BE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF AUSTRIA'S POSITIONS ON DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS SINCE THEY CONTAIN ONLY SOME OF THE ITEMS CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT BY AUSTRIA.

WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER 6, 1978.

END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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